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NEWS

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POC: Cmdr. Anthony Cooper

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Fort Gibson, Miss. Native Retires After More Than 30 Years

PENSACOLA, Fla. — Capt. Richard J. Parish, director of officer training and education Navy ROTC programs manager, retired from the naval service capping the end of a nearly 31-year distinguished career at a change of command ceremony held today at the National Museum of Naval Aviation onboard the Naval Air Station Pensacola.

Parish, born in Wichita Falls, Texas, grew up in Fort Gibson, Miss. He attended Tulane University through the Navy ROTC program, and received his commission upon graduation from the University of Mississippi in 1970. He earned his master's degree in financial management in 1980 from the Naval Postgraduate School. Parish is a certified member of the Acquisition Professional Community, has a proven subspecialty in financial management, and has been designated a Joint Specialty Officer.

Prior shore-duty assignments include commander, Naval Surface Warfare Center, Dahlgren Division, Coastal Systems Stations, Panama City, Fla.; executive assistant and naval aide to the Assistant Secretary of the Navy (financial management) and comptroller of the Navy; comptroller, Space and Naval Warfare Systems Command; program manager of the Joint Exercise Program for the chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff; and program officer for the Naval Data Automation Command.

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Parish retires 2-2-2

During his military career he has received the Defense Superior Service Medal, the Legion of Merit (three awards), the Meritorious Service Medal, the Navy Commendation Medal (two awards), the Navy Achievement Medal, the National Defense Service Medal (two awards), the Humanitarian Service Medal, the Joint Meritorious Unit Award, and various service citation.

He has also done volunteer work for the past 20 years at Pebble Beach, Calif., as a captain of marshals for the Bing Crosby Golf Tournament, the AT&T National Professional and Amateur Golf Tournament, the U.S. Open Championship and the Professional Golfers' Association Tour.

Story by Ens. George Young, Chief of Naval Education and Training Force Public Affairs Staff

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